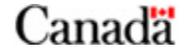


From: Saved by Windows Internet Explorer 8

Sent: May 04, 2010 9:55 AM

Subject: Parks Canada - Jasper National Park - Jasper National Parks of Canada

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Jasper National Park of Canada



Jasper National Park E-News • May 2008

Wildlife

Bears



Grizzly Mom and Cub

© Bob Bell, Parks Canada

This spring, Parks Canada added weekly reports of bear sightings to existing websites for Banff, Yoho, Kootenay, Jasper National Parks.

For example, in Jasper National Park, the weekly bear sightings will be added to an existing bear page: www.pc.gc.ca/jasper-bears, a one-stop location which now contains updates re bear activity in the park, new initiatives to help reduce conflicts between bears and people, and bear safety information.

The addition of the bear sightings report comes in response to requests from the public to provide more information regarding the locations where bears have been sighted in the 4 contiguous mountain parks.

Parks staff already compile this information on a weekly basis, and have developed a common template to post this on the public website.

The bear sightings report will give web users a good overview of where bears have been sighted on a weekly basis, however people need to be aware that bears can move quickly and are found throughout the park. Thus be aware:

- If you're hiking or biking in the mountain parks, you may encounter a bear anytime, anywhere. The more you know about bear ecology and behaviour, and how to act in the event of a bear encounter, the safer you will be.
- The bear sightings will only be posted weekly. Bears can move long distances in a very short period of time. Just because a bear has been sighted on a particular trail, doesn't mean it will be there an hour later.
- The bear sightings report is not a bear "tracking" report. Currently, we are not collaring bears for research purposes in Jasper NP. The report will be based on bear sightings by Park staff and researchers, as well as those phoned in by the public. To report a bear sighting in the park, call Jasper Dispatch (24-hours) at 780.852.6155



Black Bear Cubs

© Bob Bell, Parks Canada

Grizzly bears and black bears sightings have really increased this last week. With the high elevation snows, most bears are travelling the valley bottom areas in search of the green vegetation (dandelions, green grass and poplar buds) and elk calves.

Campers and park residents ensure that you BEAR PROOF your food, garbage and recyclables as they are huge attractants for bears that are on the search for food while moving from one area to another.

The elk calving season has started; therefore we now have a large number of bears in the valley bottom areas actively hunting elk calves. If you encounter a bear hunting elk calves or with an elk calf, leave the area and report the incident immediately so it can be

checked out by resource conservation staff.

A few bears are starting to show up along roadsides foraging on green vegetation. Reduce your speed, Slow down and save bears.

Elk

Elk Calving Season and 'Scoop and Runs'

The elk calving season is well underway in Jasper National Park and that means protective female elk are doing two things: stashing their newborn calves in predator-free areas that are also close to humans and protecting their calves. Resource conservation staff have dealt with 12 'scoop and runs' since May 20 - mostly around Jasper Park Lodge and Whistlers campground. So, just what is a 'Scoop and Run'? It's a term Resource Conservation staff use to describe relocating newborn elk calves when their protective mothers have stashed them in busy areas near people. In the photos below (taken on May 27), staff are dealing with a cow elk next to the staff accommodation at the Jasper Park Lodge. The elk had chosen that area because she felt it was safer and more predator-free than the surrounding forest. The 'Scoop and Run' involves:

- Going to the site where the encounter has taken place and locating where the cow has hidden her calf;



- Deploying the 'calf packer' (Wes Bradford in this case)
 - 1. Wes Bradford and Steve Malcolm with an elk calf at Jasper Park Lodge**
© Parks Canada
- Deploying two to three other staff with elk hazing sticks for protection (this time it was Steve Malcolm and two JPL security staff).



- 2. Wes Bradford and Steve Malcolm with an elk calf at JPL - JPL security assisting with elk stick.**

© Parks Canada

- Scooping up the elk calf and running to stay ahead of the female (usually, the cow is very close!)
- Relocating to a secluded spot (well away from any trail or facility) and allowing the cow



to rejoin her calf.

- 3. Cow and calf back together - away from JPL facility and any trail**

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Roadside Elk Count



© Parks Canada

On May 13 wildlife biologists in Jasper conducted the first spring roadside elk calf/cow count. The counts were originally designed to provide an index to abundance, but are also used to give an estimate of recruitment (recruitment is how many calves survive to one year old / adulthood). Typically the elk roadside counts are conducted in early winter but this year the count was completed in spring to capture numbers over an entire winter. The timing of the count also takes advantage of elk grazing the fresh grass along roadsides.

Biologists found that the calf/cow ratio dropped over the course of the winter, but not by a lot - from 29/100 in winter to 21/100 in spring. It appears that the over winter calf loss occurred in elk herds out of town, while the "town elk" managed to keep their calves. Biologists believe this supports the hypothesis that the town is acting as a refuge from predators, however a few more years of spring data needs to be collected to see if this relationship holds.

Place

Maligne Canyon Trail Construction Advisory



© Parks Canada

To improve visitor access and safety and to protect natural features, Parks Canada has undertaken repair work on the Maligne Canyon trail. The work includes repairs and improvements to fences and railings and trail restoration.

Minor disruptions, such as temporary detours, may occur above Second Bridge during the spring of 2008 and below the bridge during the fall.

Athabasca Glacier Toe Area – Road Opening and Safety Concern



© Parks Canada

The road to the toe of the Athabasca Glacier opened on May 29.

As temperatures warm and the Athabasca glacier recedes, a sizeable river and lake have developed under the toe of the glacier. This has created unstable and dangerous conditions. Walking on the ice at the toe of the glacier and/or leaving the designated trail is not safe. The path of the traditional trail to the toe of the glacier has been rerouted and new signs reflecting the hazard are in place.

A Brewster Ice Explorer tour or walk with a certified mountain guide are safe alternatives. Contact the information centres for more information.

Cavell Meadows-Temporary closure

In the last three years, locals and visitors have been giving this much-loved area of the park a break from early season hiking so that the sensitive vegetation can recover and the trail can dry out. This year, the temporary trail closure will be put into place on June 14th. Please respect the closure and help us support the important restoration in place to "save our meadows".



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People

On June 21st join us for a cultural celebration at National Aboriginal Day!

In cooperation with national Aboriginal organizations, the Government of Canada has designated June 21st, National Aboriginal Day. This date was chosen because it corresponds to the summer solstice, the longest day of the year and because, for generations, many Aboriginal groups have celebrated their culture and heritage at this time of year.



© Parks Canada

Storytelling, drumming, jigging and hide tanning! Join our Aboriginal partners on the Information Centre lawn on Saturday, June 21st from 1 - 4pm for an afternoon of exciting cultural activities. There will be demonstrations, interactive opportunities, Aboriginal arts and traditional performances. This is a great day to get

acquainted and immerse yourself in the rich heritage of our First Peoples and the spirit of this land.

Mock Rescue Public Safety Training Exercise

On May 28, over 30 Parks Canada resource conservation staff and provincial conservation officers assembled at Ogre Canyon for public safety training. The training, which included heli-sliding, rappel, first aid and incident command, was a simulation of how events would proceed during a real public safety incident, from the initial report to the actual rescue.



To simulate the unpredictable nature of every first response situation, staff that arrived on scene were only given preliminary information in the form of a missing persons report, and were therefore prepared for the worst. The scenario evolved throughout the day and more information was only made available once the simulated victims were located and their condition was assessed.

This kind of mock training is done annually and helps to familiarize staff with equipment and protocol, and also acts as a refresher to keep rescue skills up to date.

Although Parks Canada's public safety staff are experts in their field and trained for a wide variety of situations, they can only rescue you IF they can find you. The take home message? Let someone know where you're going before you

**A Parks Canada resource
conservation technician
rappels down into Ogre
Canyon during a mock rescue.**

© Parks Canada

head out and when to expect you back.

Date Modified 2009-11-23